

Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 ACDA-19 SP-03 DRC-01 /109 W

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P R 261721Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5654

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USNMR SHAPE

CSAF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7032

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, OCLR, GR

SUBJECT: CARRIER AIR OPERATIONS

REF: A. STATE 204669

B. WHITEMAN'S DIGEST OF INTERNATIONAL, VOL. 9

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT ON SEPTEMBER 13 OF NOTE VERBALE FROM FONOFF WHICH ALLEGED UNAUTHORIZED OVERFLIGHT BY FOUR-ENGINED, PROPELLER-DRIVEN U.S. AIRCRAFT AND ALSO COMPLAINED THAT U.S. MILITARY NOT OBSERVING GREEK REGULATIONS WITHIN ATHENS FIR, EMBASSY SOUGHT THROUGH DAO INFORMATION TO ANSWER ALLEGATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED TO USE RECEIPT OF NOTE AS PEG ON WHICH TO HAND INFORMATION RE CARRIER AIR OPERATIONS, AS PROVIDED REF A.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 26, POL/MIL OFFICER DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH ELEFThERIADES, 3RD DIRECTORATE, FONOFF, WHO HAD GIVEN SEPTEMBER 13 NOTE VERBALE TO EMBASSY. EMBOFF GAVE NOTE OF REPLY EXPLAINING THAT INVESTIGATION REVEALED US AIRCRAFT NO CLOSER THAN 170-180
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NAUTICAL MILES TO SITE OF ALLEGED OVERFLIGHT AND NOTED THAT

PRECAUTIONS BEING TAKEN TO PRECLUDE SUCH HAPPENINGS. EMBOFF ALSO GAVE SECOND NOTE WHICH ADDRESSED QUESTION OF US FLIGHT ACTIVITIES WITHIN AN FIR BUT NOT IN NATIONAL AIRSPACE. THIS NOTE DREW ON PARAS 4-6 OF REF A AND ON MATERIAL FROM PAGES 429-430 OF REF B. BOTH NOTES CONCILIATORY IN TONE BUT SET FORTH USG POSITION IN STRAIGHTFORWARD TERMS.

3. ELEFThERIADES CLEARLY WAS NOT CONVERSANT WITH ANY ASPECTS OF PROBLEM AND DOUBTLESS WILL PASS TEXT OF NOTE TO HAFc FOR ITS INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION. WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY FURTHER EXCHANGE ON THIS QUESTION, BUT CANNOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT HAFc WILL CHALLENGE USG POSITION THROUGH FONOFF.

4. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT CARRIER AIR OPS HAVE NOT RECENTLY BEEN CONDUCTED IN SEA OF CRETE, AREA IN WHICH FLIGHT OPS HAD EXCITED GREEKS, BUT FOR TIME BEING PRUDENTLY ARE BEING KEPT SOUTH OF PELEPONNESUS, CRETE, AND RHODES.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, NAVAL FORCES, AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, ALLEGATIONS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, MILITARY FLIGHT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS07032
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740271-1138
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740913/aaaaakmz.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 204669
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARRIER AIR OPERATIONS
TAGS: MILI, OCLR, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005